PROC. ENTOMOL. SOC. WASH.
109(3), 2007, pp. 733–734

NOTE

Frankliniella intonsa (Trybom) (Thysanoptera: Thripidae), An Invasive Insect in North America

Frankliniella intonsa (Trybom) (Thysanoptera: Thripidae) is a polyphagous, florivorous thrips species currently established in North America west of the Cascade Mountains in Washington State and near Portland, Oregon in the United States (U.S.); and in southern British Columbia, Canada. Its natural distribution is the Palaearctic and part of the Oriental regions (Nakahara 1997). The species has been intercepted numerous times from various countries in Europe and the Orient at U.S. ports during agricultural quarantine inspections of cut flowers carried by airline passengers, in quarters of passenger aircrafts and in commercial importations by Plant Quarantine Division, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture (ARS, USDA), Plant Protection and Quarantine-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (PPQ-APHIS, USDA), and by Customs Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security. The origin of the founder population in the Pacific Northwest has not been resolved, and we do not know whether the populations in Canada and the U.S. were from two or more unrelated introductions from either Europe or the Orient.

The earliest detection in Canada at Vernon, British Columbia, was reported on *Prunella vulgaris* L. (Chiasson 1986). However, Chiasson did not cite the source of the record. The original publication and the collection on which this report was based have not been found and the date of detection can not be established. During 1994–1996, infestations were found in several nurseries in the Vancouver area, Barnhartvale, Chilliwack, Salmon Arm, and Nelson in southern British Columbia. Further surveys by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in 2003 and 2004 found this thrips well established in the Vancouver area.

The earliest record for the U.S. is April 27, 1972 at Nugents Corner, Whatcom Co., Washington, on bush beans. In September of 1989, it was recollected in this state south of Seattle on baby's breath (*Gypsophila paniculata* L.) plants in a nursery with other native and invasive thrips that are common in the Pacific Northwest. Apparently there has not been any report of damage by this thrips to agricultural crops in the Pacific Northwest.

During 2002 and 2003, specimens were intercepted in several shipments of cut flowers from British Columbia at U.S. ports. Quarantine actions where taken based on the limited distribution in the U.S. and because this species is a pest of several agricultural crops in Asia and Europe (Lewis 1997). It is also a vector of plant disease-causing tospoviruses (Wijkamp et al. 1995), which can be transmitted only by a few thrips species. In the latter part of 2003, surveys by PPQ-APHIS found infestations in four counties in Washington State (Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, and King) and near Portland, Oregon, on flowers, weeds, and other plants. Discovery of wider distribution of this species in the Pacific Northwest led to rescinding the quarantine requirements for this thrips. This case illustrates the importance of a survey system to detect and track invasive pests in North America.

We thank Paul Courneya, PPQ-APHIS, USDA, for information on quarantine activities and surveys, and

for reviewing the manuscript; Eric Maw, National Science Program-Environmental Health, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Ottawa. for collection data from the surveys conducted by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and for reviewing the manuscript; and Gary Miller and Norman Woodley, Systematic Entomology Laboratory, ARS, USDA, for reviewing the manuscript.

Literature Cited

Chiasson, H. 1986. A synopsis of the Thysanoptera (Thrips) of Canada. Lyman Entomological Museum and Research Laboratory Memoir 17: 1–115.

Lewis, T. 1997. Thrips as crop pests. CAB International, Wallingford, UK. 740 pp.

Nakahara, S. 1997. Annotated list of the *Frankliniella* species of the world. Contributions on Entomology, International 2(4): 355–389.

Wijkamp, I., N. Almarza, and D. Peters. 1995. Median latent period and transmission of tospoviruses vectored by thrips, pp. 53–57. *In* Parker, B. L., M. Skinner, and T. Lewis, eds. Thrips Biology and Management, NATO ASI, Series A, 276. Plenum Press, New York.

Sueo Nakahara and Robert G. Foottit, *(SN) Systematic Entomology Laboratory, Plant Sciences Institute, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 137, Building 005, BARC-West, 10300 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20705-2350, U.S.A. (e-mail: steve.nakahara@ars.usda.gov); (RGF) National Science Program-Environmental Health, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, K. W. Neatby Building, Room 3048, 960 Carling Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0C6 (e-mail: foottitrg@agr.gc.ca)*